

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 1 and 21 are pending and at issue.

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Cheng (U.S. Patent 5,720,671) in view of Kobayashi (U.S. Patent 4,682,504), JP 6-114131 (hereinafter JP '131), and JP 9-140840 (hereinafter JP '840).

Claim 21 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Jackson (U.S. Patent 3,646,610) in view of Kusumoto (U.S. Patent 6,106,413), JP '131, JP '840, Preece (U.S. Patent 6,126,557) and Cecka (U.S. Patent 4,157,181).

Applicants traverse these rejections and request reconsideration.

The Examiner contends that JP '131 provides the motivation to extend each layer disclosed in Cheng or Jackson over the entire length of the shaft.

JP '131 discloses a golf club shaft having a torsion preventing layer. See the English abstract of JP '131. The torsion preventing layer includes (1) a + theta layer (i.e., a layer at an angle theta away from the longitudinal axis of the golf shaft), (2) a 0 degree layer (i.e., a layer parallel to the longitudinal axis of the golf shaft), and (3) a - theta layer (i.e., a layer at an angle - theta away from the longitudinal axis of the golf shaft). JP '131 states that it is advantageous to include the 0 degree layer between the + and - theta layers to prevent them from rubbing together and causing unevenness in the mechanical strength of the golf shaft. Therefore, even if there was motivation to combine Cheng with JP '131 (which applicants do not admit and disagree with for the reasons stated in the prior responses including

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those presented in the March 4, 2002 Amendment), the resulting golf club shaft would include a 0 degree layer between + theta and - theta layers.

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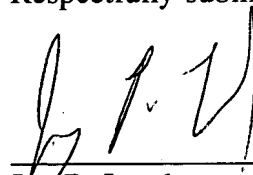
In contrast, the second angled layer of the presently claimed golf shaft is formed of reinforcing fibers oriented at an angle relative to the longitudinal direction of the shaft. See claims 1 and 21. Therefore, the second angled layer does not include a 0 degree layer.

For the foregoing reasons, the cited references alone or in combination fail to render obvious the presently claimed invention and these rejections should be withdrawn.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted



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